

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all previous listings in this application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Withdrawn). Concrete article, characterised by the fact that the concrete article contains a concrete thickener comprising the following components:
 - a) about 20 to about 40% by weight, of at least one thickening agent;
 - b) about 20 to about 40% by weight, of at least one hydrophobing additive; and
 - c) remainder water.
2. (Currently amended) The process ~~as claimed in~~ of Claim 11, wherein the ~~thickening agent effective to thicken said concrete mixture~~ is an organic or inorganic polymer.
3. (Currently amended) The process ~~as claimed in~~ of Claim 2, wherein the ~~thickening agent effective to thicken said concrete mixture~~ is selected from the group consisting of a polyacrylate ~~polyacrylates~~, a polymethacrylate ~~polymethacrylates~~, a polyurethane ~~polyurethanes~~, an alginate ~~alginates~~, a polyose ~~polyoses~~, a cellulose derivative ~~derivatives~~, a polycarboxylic acid ~~acids~~, a polyether ~~polyethers~~, a polyimine ~~polyimines~~, a polyamide ~~polyamides~~, a silicic acid derivative ~~derivatives~~, a zeolite, ~~zeolites~~ and/or combinations thereof.
4. (Currently amended) The process ~~as claimed in~~ of Claim 11, wherein the concrete thickener ~~mixture is present in~~ added into the concrete ~~mixture~~ article in a proportion of about 0.01 to about 2.0% by weight, ~~preferably about 0.04 to about 1.0% by weight.~~
5. (Currently amended) The process ~~as claimed in~~ of Claim 11, wherein the ~~hydrophobing additive effective to create hydrophobic character in said concrete mixture~~ is selected from the group consisting of a silane ~~silanes~~, a siloxane ~~siloxanes~~, a silicone ~~silicones~~, a siliconate ~~siliconates~~, a fluorosilicate ~~fluorosilicates~~, a hydrosilane ~~hydrosilanes~~, a fatty acid or salt thereof ~~acids and their salts~~, a wax ~~waxes~~, an acrylic resin ~~resins~~, an epoxy resin ~~resins~~, a polyurethane resin ~~resins~~, a

sodium silicate-silicates (alkali silicate-silicates), a silicic acid ester-esters and/or combinations thereof.

6. (Currently amended) The process ~~as claimed in~~ of Claim 11, wherein the concrete thickener mixture further comprises dyes, water-soluble polymers, polymer dispersions, surface-active substances or mixtures thereof.
7. (Currently amended) The process ~~as claimed in~~ of Claim 11, wherein the concrete article further contains ~~further~~ concrete admixtures, such as concrete additives and/or concrete addition agents.
8. (Currently amended) The process ~~as claimed in~~ of Claim 7, wherein the concrete additives are selected from the group consisting of concrete liquefiers, fluxes, air pore forming materials, sealing agents, retarders, accelerators, injection aids, stabilisers, chromate reducers, recycling aids for washing water and/or combinations thereof, and the concrete addition agents are selected from the group consisting of trass, powdered stone, coal flue dust, silica dust, pigments, and ~~or~~ combinations thereof.
9. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in Claim 11, wherein a water/cement ratio of about 0.3 to about 0.5 preferably about 0.4.
10. (Withdrawn) The concrete article as claimed in Claim 1, produced in a vibration-compaction process.
11. (Currently amended) A process for producing a concrete article, comprising the following steps:
 - iI) mixing cement binder, grains of stone and make-up water[[,]] in a mixer to form a concrete mixture; and
 - iiI) subsequently adding a concrete thickener mixture to the concrete mixture from step iI), the concrete thickener mixture formulated by a process comprising the following ~~components~~ steps:
 - a) adding about 20 to about 40 % by weight[[,]] of at least one ~~thickening~~ agent effective to thicken said concrete mixture;

- b) adding about 20 to about 40 % by weight[[,]] of at least one ~~hydrophobing~~ additive effective to create hydrophobic character in said concrete mixture;
 - and
 - c) adding remainder water.
- 12. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in Claim 11, ~~characterised by wherein~~ the concrete thickener mixture is added into the mixer ~~via~~ by an evacuation pump and a spray nozzle.
- 13. (Withdrawn) A concrete thickener, especially one for thickening a concrete article, which comprises the following components:
 - a) about 20 to about 40 % by weight, of at least one thickening agent;
 - b) about 20 to about 40 % by weight, of at least one hydrophobing additive; and
 - c) remainder water.
- 14. (Withdrawn) The concrete thickener as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the fact that the thickening agent is an organic or inorganic polymer.
- 15. (Withdrawn) The concrete thickener as claimed in Claim 14, the fact that the thickening agent is selected from the group consisting of polyacrylates, polymethacrylates, polyurethanes, alginates, polyoses, cellulose derivatives, polycarboxylic acids, polyethers, polyimines, polyamides, silicic acid derivatives, zeolites and/or combinations thereof.
- 16. (Currently amended) The process of Claim 11, wherein the concrete thickener mixture comprises about 30% by weight of at least one ~~thickening~~ agent effective to thicken said concrete mixture.
- 17. (Currently amended) The process of Claim 11, wherein the concrete thickener mixture comprises about 30% by weight of at least one ~~hydrophobing~~ additive effective to create hydrophobic character in said concrete mixture.

18. (Currently amended) The process of ~~claim~~ Claim 2, wherein the ~~thickening~~ agent effective to thicken said concrete mixture is selected from the group consisting of polyacrylates, polyurethanes, cellulose derivatives and silicic acid derivatives.
19. (New) The process of Claim 11, additionally comprising the steps of:
(III) forming a concrete article; and
(IV) curing said concrete article.
20. (New) A concrete article resulting from the process of Claim 19, wherein said concrete article has a water/cement ratio of about 0.3 to about 0.5.
21. (New) The concrete article of Claim 20, wherein said article has a water/cement ratio of about 0.5.
22. (New) The process of Claim 4, wherein the concrete thickener mixture is added into the concrete mixture in a proportion of about 0.04 to about 1.0% by weight.